

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A method for provisioning users with resources, the method comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3                 establishing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user roles;  
4                 defining a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected  
5 attributes, organizational information, and user roles;  
6                 receiving attribute information, organizational information, and user role  
7 information for a particular user, resource, or database;  
8                 determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to the user  
9 based on the received user role information, organizational information, and attribute  
10 information; and  
11                 provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource  
12 provisioning policies.

1           2.     A method as recited in claim 1, the user roles comprising a yes value and a no  
2 value, the attributes comprising multiple non-binary values.

1           3.     A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of reconciling  
2 resources by comparing resources currently provisioned to the user with a list of resources that  
3 should be provisioned to the user based on the applicable resource access policies, and  
4 identifying any differences.

1           4.     A method as recited in claim 3, further including the step provisioning or de-  
2 provisioning resources to the user based on the differences detected by reconciliation.

1           5.     A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of de-provisioning the  
2 user with some or all of the user's allocated resources if the user is terminated, suspended, or  
3 placed on leave.

1           6.     A method as recited in claim 2, further including the steps of:  
2                 receiving timing information related to the timing of the provisioning or  
3 resources; and  
4                 provisioning the user with resources at a certain time specified by the timing  
5 information.

1           7.     A method as recited in claim 2, the attributes comprising user attributes and  
2 resource attributes.

1           8.     A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of provisioning the  
2 user with "hard" resources and "soft" resources.

1           9.     A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of provisioning the  
2 user with resource bundles.

1           10.    A method as recited in claim 2, further including the step of defining a plurality  
2 of resource provisioning policies utilizing decision statements that allow irrelevant steps to be  
3 bypassed.

1           11.    A method as recited in claim 2, the step of provisioning the user with resources  
2 comprising communicating requests for the resources to applications or persons.

1           12.    A system for provisioning users with resources, the system comprising:  
2                   memory for storing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user  
3 roles, a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected attributes, organizational  
4 information, and user roles, and attribute information and user role information for a particular  
5 user or resource; and  
6                   one or more processors coupled to the memory and an organizational network,  
7 the processors programmed for  
8                   determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to a  
9 particular user based on the stored user role information, organizational information, and  
10 attribute information, and  
11                   provisioning the user with resources based on the applicable resource  
12 provisioning policies.

1           13.    A system as recited in claim 12, the user roles having a yes value and a no  
2 value, the attributes comprising multiple non-binary values.

1           14.    A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further  
2 programmed for reconciling resources by comparing resources currently provisioned to the  
3 user with a list of resources that should be provisioned to the user based on the applicable  
4 resource provisioning policies, and identifying any differences.

1           15.    A system as recited in claim 14, the one or more processors further  
2 programmed for provisioning or de-provisioning resources to the user based on the differences  
3 detected by reconciliation.

1           16.    A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further  
2 programmed for de-provisioning the user with some or all of the user's allocated resources if  
3 the user is terminated, suspended, or placed on leave.

1           17.    A system as recited in claim 13, the one or more processors further  
2 programmed for:  
3                   receiving timing information related to the timing of the provisioning or  
4 resources; and  
5                   provisioning the user with resources at a certain time specified by the timing  
6 information.

1           18.    A system as recited in claim 13, the attributes comprising user attributes and  
2 resource attributes.

1           19.    A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user may be provisioned with  
2 “hard” resources and “soft” resources.

1           20.    A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user is provisioned with resource  
2 bundles.

1           21.    A system as recited in claim 13, the plurality of resource provisioning policies  
2 utilizing decision statements that allow irrelevant steps to be bypassed.